

Letter Bk. II. what I had begun having given the Commissaries that Governor Dinwiddie had now appointed Instructions about laying Provisions into the Magazine we returned to Williamsburg in hopes of finding the General by that time there being disappointed in these Expectations I could not wait his Arrival by reason our Assembly was again about to meet, but I left a Lett<sup>r</sup> for him & as soon as I was released by the Assembly's Prorogation I waited on him the last week in March at Alexandria where he was just arrived & where the Regiments from Ireland were then disembarked & Encamped. The 3<sup>d</sup> of April the General came to Annapolis where he had appointed to have an Interview with Governor Shirley who however did not come hither till the week following & then we proceeded to the General at Alexandria. With General Braddock I had the honour & satisfaction to welcome Commodore Kepple to Annapolis & from him to receive your Favour dated the General Braddock stayed here three Days with a little Impatience & at his Return hence ordered the Regiments to move westward Col<sup>o</sup> Halketts & the Train thro Virg<sup>a</sup> to Fort Cumberland & Colo. Dunbar's on this side Potowmack to the same place. The great Scarcety of Waggon<sup>s</sup> & Horses in these Parts & the Difficulty of getting those that are by reason our Assemblies had granted no money for the Payment of them or for any such Purposes obliged the Troops to move very slowly so that they did not reach Fort Cumberland till the 2<sup>d</sup> week in May & all the Stores were not got thither till some time afterwards. The 28<sup>th</sup> of May a Detachment of 600 was ordered to march & fling a Bridge over a Stream that flows 14 or 15 miles from Fort Cumberland westward & the General with the Rest of the Troops followed the 10<sup>th</sup> Inst. & had on the 17<sup>th</sup> with a good deal of Difficulty on Account of the Hills & Mountains that occurred marched about 25 or 30 Miles. I beleive they have as many more Miles to march before they get into a level Country. The Army consists of about 2300 Men fifty of whom are left under the Command of Colo. Innes (he is a Gent<sup>r</sup> of N Carolina was a Captain at Carthegena but has since sold his Commission) at Fort Cumberland. The Troops have hitherto been pretty healthy, I am informed 50 Invalids only are left behind with Colonel Innes. After this week we shall be in daily Expectation of receiving Letters from Fort Du Quesne that will give all his Friends & these Colonies Room to congratulate themselves on the Generals Success. He tells me that he proposes to repair the Fort that the French have raised in case he reduces it or build some other place of Defence there as a Barrier against future Encroachments which he will garrison with the Virginia & Maryland Troops & leave it to these two Colonies to Victual them: I do not know who is to have